

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AAR	Association of American Railroads
ABS	Automatic Block Signal system
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
ADT	Average Daily Traffic
agencies	SEA and the cooperating agencies
AIRFA	American Indian Religious Freedom Act
ALP	Airport Layout Plan
API	American Petroleum Institute
Applicants	San Jacinto Rail Limited and The Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (collectively)
AREMA	American Railway Engineering Maintenance-of-Way Association
ARPA	Archaeological Resource Protection Act
ASLRRA	American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association
ASME	American Society of Mechanical Engineers
ASTM	American Society of Testing Materials
Bayport Loop	Bayport Industrial District
Bayport Terminal	Bayport Channel Container/Cruise Terminal
BMP	Best Management Practice
BNSF	The Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway
Board	Surface Transportation Board
CAA	Clean Air Act of 1970
CAAA	Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990

CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980
CERCLIS	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CIMA	Channel Industries Mutual Aid
CO	carbon monoxide
CTC	Centralized Traffic Control
CWA	Clean Water Act
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972
dBA	A-weighted decibels
DoD	Department of Defense
EEE	EEE Consulting, Inc.
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EO	Executive Order
EPCRA	Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act
ESA	Endangered Species Act of 1973
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FRA	Federal Railroad Administration

FRSA	Federal Railroad Safety Act
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
GH&H	Galveston, Henderson, and Houston
GIS	Geographic Information System
HB&T	Houston Belt & Terminal Railway Company
HCFCDD	Harris County Flood Control District
HDR	HDR Engineering, Inc.
HGA	Houston Galveston Area
HGAC	Houston-Galveston Area Council
HMRT	Hazardous Materials Response Team
HSA	Highway Safety Act
H₂S	Hydrogen Sulfide
ICC	Interstate Commerce Commission
ICF	ICF Consulting, Inc.
ILS	Instrument Landing System
L_{dn}	Day-Night Average Noise Level
LEPC	Local Emergency Planning Committee
L_{eq}	Level Equivalent
L_{max}	maximum train passby sound
LOC	Localizer Antenna
LOMR	Letters of Map Revision
LOS	Level of Service
MBS	Manual Block Signal system

MGD	million gallons per day
MSFCMA	Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
msl	mean sea level
N/A	Not Applicable
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NBL	Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NO₂	nitrogen dioxide
NO_x	nitrogen oxides
NPDES	National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
NPL	National Priorities List
NPS	National Park Service
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NTSB	National Transportation Safety Board
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
O₃	ozone
OPS	Office of Pipeline Safety

OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
OVM	Organic vapor analyzer
Pb	Lead
PCAPS	PC Accident Prediction System
PCL	Protective Concentration Levels
PHA	Port of Houston Authority
PID	Photoionization detection
PM	(respirable) particulate matter
PM₁₀	particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter
PM_{2.5}	particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter
PTRA	Port Terminal Railroad Association
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976
RCRIS	Resource Conservation and Recovery Information System
RPZ	Runway Protection Zone
RRC	Railroad Commission of Texas
RSPA	Research and Special Program Administration
SARA	Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act of 1986
SCTF	Sonny Carter Training Facility
SEA	Section of Environmental Analysis
SEL	Sound Exposure Level
SH	State Highway
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SIP	State Implementation Plan

SJRL	San Jacinto Rail Limited
SO₂	sulfur dioxide
SP	Southern Pacific Rail Corporation
TAC	Texas Administrative Code
TCEQ	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (formerly TNRCC)
TDS	total dissolved solids
Texas GLO	Texas General Land Office
THC	Texas Historical Commission
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Loading
TNRCC	Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission
TPDES	Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
TPWD	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
TRANSCAER	Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response Program
TRI	Toxics Release Inventory
TRRP	Texas Risk Reduction Program
TSS	total suspended solids
TWC	Track Warrant Control
TxDOT	Texas Department of Transportation
U.S.C.	United States Code
UP	Union Pacific Railroad Company
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USCG	U.S. Coast Guard

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

USDOT	U.S. Department of Transportation
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
VOC	volatile organic compound

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Adverse environmental impact	A negative effect, resulting from the implementation of a proposed action, that serves to degrade or diminish an aspect of human or natural resources.
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)	An independent Federal agency charged with advising the President and Congress on historic preservation matters and administering the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.
Applicants	Any person or entity seeking Board action whether by application, petition, Notice of Exemption, or any other means that initiates a formal Board proceeding.
Application	A formal filing with the Board related to certain railroad transactions such as railroad mergers, acquisitions, constructions, or abandonments. Applications may be either Primary applications or Inconsistent and Responsive Applications. See <i>Primary Application</i> and <i>Inconsistent and Responsive Application</i> .
Aquifer	A permeable geological stratum or formation that can both store and transmit water in significant quantities.
At-grade roadway crossing	The location where a local street or highway crosses railroad tracks at the same level or elevation.
Attainment area	An area that EPA has classified as complying with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) specified under the Clean Air Act.
Automatic block signal	A block signal which is activated by track circuit or in conjunction with interlocking or controlled point circuits. This block signal automatically indicates track condition and block occupancy.
Automatic Block Signal System (ABS)	A series of consecutive blocks governed by block signals, cab signals or both, actuated by a train, engine or by certain conditions affecting the use of a block.
A-weighted sound level (dBA)	The most commonly used measure of noise, expressed in “A-weighted” decibels (dBA), is a single-number measure of sound severity that accounts for the various frequency components in a way that corresponds to human hearing.

Best Management Practice (BMP)	Technique that various parties (e.g., the construction industry) use to provide protection from adverse impacts to the environment. The Board may designate these techniques as mitigation measures.
Biological Assessment	Information prepared by, or under the direction of, a Federal agency to determine whether a proposed action is likely to: (1) adversely affect listed species or designated critical habitat; (2) jeopardize the continued existence of species that are proposed for listing; or (3) adversely modify proposed critical habitat. Biological assessments must be prepared for “major construction activities.”
Block	(1) A defined length of track, with defined limits, on which operators govern train movements. (2) A group of freight cars handled as one unit for a portion or all of their journey from origin to destination.
Block group	A small population area that the U.S. Census Bureau uses to measure and record demographic characteristics. The population of a block group typically ranges from 600 to 3000 people and is designed to reflect homogeneous living conditions, economic status, and population characteristics. Block group boundaries follow visible and identifiable features, such as roads, canals, railroads, and above-ground high-tension power lines.
Blocking	The process of aggregating freight cars onto blocks.
Board	The Surface Transportation Board.
Borrow area	Site from which earthen material is excavated and used at a different site as fill to create the proper grade.
Branch line	A secondary line of railroad usually handling light volumes of traffic.
Carload	A unit of measure used to describe commodities transported on a railroad typically in a boxcar, tank car, flat car, hopper car, or gondola.
Census block group	The smallest geographic unit for which the U.S. Census provides information on racial background, ethnic heritage, and household income.

**Clean Air Act
(Clean Air Act Amendments)**

The primary Federal law that protects the nation's air resources comprised of the Clean Air Act of 1970 and the subsequent amendments, including the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 7401-7671g). This act establishes a comprehensive set of standards, planning processes, and requirements to address air pollution problems and reduce emissions from major sources of pollutants.

Clean Water Act

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendment of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*) is the primary Federal law that protects the nation's waters, including lakes, rivers, aquifers, and coastal areas. The act provides a comprehensive framework of standards, technical tools, and financial assistance to address the many causes of pollution and poor water quality, including municipal and industrial wastewater discharges, polluted runoff from urban and rural areas, and habitat destruction. Specifically, the Clean Water Act provides for the following:

- Requires major industries to meet performance standards to ensure pollution control.
- Charges state and tribes with setting specific water quality standards appropriate for area water and developing pollution control programs to meet them.
- Protects valuable wetlands and other aquatic habitats through a permitting process that conducts land development activities and other activities in an environmentally sound manner.

Coastal prairie

Coastal prairie is a type of tallgrass prairie ecosystem that once included an abundant biodiversity of grasses, wildflowers, and animals. It is located along the coastal plain of south-western Louisiana and Texas. Coastal prairie is currently listed as “imperiled globally” by The Nature Conservancy and the Texas Natural Heritage Program. The Texas Organization for Endangered Species lists the vegetation associated within the coastal prairie as “threatened and endangered communities.”

Coastal zone	According to the Costal Zone Management Act of 1972, lands and waters adjacent to the coast that exert an influence on the uses of the sea and its ecology, or whose uses and ecology the sea affects.
Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601-9675; P.L. 96-510); Liability Act (CERCLA)	Provides EPA with authority to clean up inactive hazardous waste sites and distribute the cleanup costs among the parties who generated and/or handled the hazardous substances at these sites.
Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System (CERCLIS)	Federal database containing information on potential hazardous waste sites that states, municipalities, private companies, and private persons have reported to the EPA, pursuant to Section 103 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act. This database contains sites that are either currently on, or proposed for inclusion on, the National Priorities List (NPL) and sites that are in the screening and assessment phase for possible inclusion on the NPL.
Condition	A provision that the Board imposes as part of any decision that requires action by one or more of the Applicants.
Consist	The number and type of locomotives and cars included in a train, considering special factors such as the tonnage and the placement of hazardous materials cars and “high-wides” (oversize dimension cars).
Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)	Federal agency responsible for developing regulation and guidance for agencies implementing the National Environmental Policy Act.
Criteria of significance	The criteria which the Section of Environmental Analysis has developed to determine whether a potential adverse environmental effect is significant and may warrant mitigation.
Criteria pollutant	Any of six emissions (lead, carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, and particulate matter) regulated under the Clean Air Act, for which area must meet national air quality standards.

Critical habitat	The specific site within the geographical area occupied by threatened or endangered species that includes the physical or biological features essential to the conservation of the species. These areas may require special management considerations or protection. These areas may include specific sites outside the geographical areas occupied by the species at the time of the listing that are essential for the conservation of the species.
Cultural resource	Any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object that warrants consideration for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. A cultural resource that is listed in or is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places is considered a historic property (or a significant cultural resource). The term generally applies to any railroad owned resource more than 50 years old.
Cumulative effects	Impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the proposed action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of which agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such actions. Cumulative impacts result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.
dBA	Adjusted decibel level. A sound measurement that adjusts to noise by filtering out certain frequencies to make it analogous to that perceived by the human ear. It applies what is known as an “A-weighting” scale to acoustical measurements.
Dispatcher (train)	The railroad operating employee responsible for issuing on-track movement and/or occupancy authority through the use of remotely controlled switches, signals, visual displays, voice control, written mandatory directives, and/or all of the above.
Emissions	Air pollutants that enter the atmosphere.
Emergent vegetation	An aquatic plant with vegetative growth mostly above the water.

Endangered species	A species of plant or animal that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range and is protected by state and/or federal laws.
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)	A document that the CEQ regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act requires Federal agencies to prepare for major projects or legislative proposal having the potential to significantly affect the environment. A tool for decision-making, it describes the positive and negative environmental effects of the undertaking and Alternative actions and measures to reduce or eliminate potentially significant environmental impacts.
Environmental justice	For purposes of this document, SEA defines environmental justice as the mission discussed in Executive Order (EO) 12898 “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations” (59 FR 7629, February 11, 1994). This EO directs Federal agencies to identify and address “disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects” of their programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations in the United States. EO 12898 also calls for public notification for environmental justice populations, as well as meaningful public participation of environmental justice populations.
Environmental justice population	A population within an Area of Potential Effect whose minority and low-income composition meets at least one of the following Criteria: (1) the percentage of minority and low-income population in the Area of Potential Effect is greater than 50 percent of the total population in the Area of Potential Effect, or (2) the percentage of minority and low-income population in the Area of Potential Effect is at least ten percentage points greater than the percentage of minority or low income population in the country of which the Area of Potential Effect is a part.
Environmental resource category	Any of the environmental issues that serve as the major topics of impact analysis for this EIS. Examples include land use, biological resources, noise, hazardous materials, cultural resource, water quality, or air quality.

Equipment	For a railroad, a term used to refer to the mobile assets of the railroad, such as locomotives, freight cars and on track maintenance machines. Also used more narrowly as a collective term for freight cars operated by this railroad.
Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)	Essential Fish Habitat refers to those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity (Magnuson-Stevens Act, 16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq). Waters include aquatic areas and their associated physical, chemical, and biological properties that are used by fish and may include aquatic areas historically used by fish where appropriate; substrate includes sediment, hard bottom, structures underlying the waters, and associated biological communities; necessary means the habitat required to support a sustainable fishery and the managed species' contribution to a healthy ecosystem; and spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity covers a species' full life cycle.
Estuary	A semi-enclosed body of sea water where salinity is measurably diluted by freshwater.
Executive Order (EO) 11988	Executive Order 11988, "Floodplain Management," requires Federal agencies to take actions to reduce the risk of flood damage and directs agencies to evaluate the potential effects of actions they may take or allow in floodplains and to consider Alternatives to avoid adverse effects.
Executive Order (EO) 12898	Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations," issued in February of 1994, directs Federal agencies to identify and address as appropriate "disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects," including interrelated social and economic effects of their programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations in the United States.
Fill	The term used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) that refers to the placement of suitable materials (e.g., soils, aggregates, concrete structures, etc.) within water resources under USACE jurisdiction.

Flood Insurance Rate Maps	Maps available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency that delineate the land surface area of 100-year and 500-year flooding events.
Floodplain	The lowlands adjoining inland and coastal waters and relatively flat areas and flood-prone offshore islands, including, at a minimum, those areas that have a one percent or greater chance of flood in any given year (also known as a 100-year or a Zone A floodplain).
Floodway	The portion of the available flow cross section that cannot be obstructed without causing an increase in the water-surface elevations resulting from a flood with a 100-year average return period of more than a given amount.
Geographic Information System (GIS)	A computer system for storing, retrieving, manipulating, analyzing, and displaying geographic data. GIS combines mapping and databases.
Grade crossing	See <i>highway/rail at-grade crossing</i> .
Grade separation	See <i>separated grade crossing</i> .
Gross ton-mile	A measure of railroad production that represents the weight of cars and freight movement in terms of total tons per mile transported system-wide or over a specific rail line segment. Specifically, one ton of railroad car and loading carried one mile.
Habitat	The place(s) where plant or animals species generally occur(s) including specific vegetation types, geologic features, and hydrologic features. The continued survival of that species depends upon the intrinsic resources of the habitat.
Hazardous materials	Substances or materials that the Secretary of Transportation has determined are capable of posing an unreasonable risk to human health, safety, and property when transported in commerce, as designated under 49 CFR Parts 172 and 173.
Hazardous wastes	Waste materials that, by their nature, are inherently dangerous to handle or dispose of (e.g., old explosives, radioactive materials, some chemicals, some biological wastes), as designated under 40 CFR 261. Usually, industrial operations produce these waste materials.

Highway/rail at grade road crossing	The general area of an intersection of a public or private highway and a railroad where the intersecting rail and highway traffic are at the same level.
Historic property	Any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The term “eligible for inclusion in the NRHP” pertains to both properties that the Secretary of the Interior has formally determined to be eligible and to all other properties that meet NRHP listing criteria.
Horn noise (train)	Noise that occurs when locomotives sound warning horns in the vicinity of highway/rail at-grade crossings.
Impaired Waterbody	Any waterbody that is too polluted to maintain its beneficial uses.
Inconsistent and Responsive Application	Proposal to the Surface Transportation Board that Parties of Record request modification of, or Alternatives to, proposed action.
Indian tribe	According to Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450-458; P.L. 93-638), any Indian Tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community recognized as eligible for the special programs and services that the United States provides to Indians because of their status as Indians.
Instrumental Landing System (ILS)	A ground-based radio system designed to provide horizontal and vertical guidance for aircraft landing at an airport.
Intermodal facility	A site consisting of tracks, lifting equipment, paved and/or unpaved areas, and a control point for the transfer (receiving, loading, unloading, and dispatching) of trailers and containers between rail and highway, or between rail and marine modes of transportation.
Jurisdictional wetland	Wetlands that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regulates under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

L_{dn}	The day-night average noise sound level, which is the receptor's cumulative noise exposure from all noise events over a full 24 hours. This is adjusted to account for the perception that noise at night is more bothersome than the same noise during the day.
L_{eq}	The level equivalent, which is the energy-averaged sound pressure level over a specified time interval.
Level of Service (LOS)	A degree of peak congestion experienced by roadway vehicle traffic stream using procedures that consider factors such as vehicle delay, freedom to maneuver, traffic interruptions, comfort and convenience, and safety. Traffic analysts express LOS as letter grades, ranging from Level of Service A (free flowing) to Level of Service F (severely congested); they measure LOS by the average for all vehicles. Specifically, Level of Service A describes operations with very low delay (less than 5.0 seconds per vehicle); Level of Service B describes operations with delay in the range of 5.01 to 15.0 seconds per vehicle; Level of Service C describes operation with delay in the range of 15.0 to 25.0 seconds per vehicle; Level of Service D describes operations with delay in the range of 25.1 to 40.0 seconds per vehicle; Level of Service E describes operations with delay in the range of 40.1 to 60.0 seconds per vehicle; and Level of Service F describes operations with delay in excess of 60.0 seconds per vehicle.
Localizer Antenna (LOC)	Part of an ILS. The LOC provides horizontal guidance.
Locomotive, road	One or more locomotives (or engines) designed to move trains between yards or other designated points.
Locomotive, switching	A locomotive (or engine) used to switch cars in a yard, between industries, or in other areas where cars are sorted, spotted (places at a shipper's facility), pulled (removed from a shipper's facility), and moved within a local area.
Low-income population	A population composed of persons whose median household income is below the Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines.
Mainline	Railroad line that through trains use between terminals.

Manual Block Signal system (MBS)	A series of consecutive blocks, governed by block signals operated manually, upon information by telegraph, telephone or other means of communication.
Minority population	A population composed of persons who are Black (non-Hispanic), Hispanic, Asian American, American Indian, or Alaskan Native.
Mitigation	An action taken to prevent, reduce, or eliminate adverse environmental effects.
Motive power	Locomotives operated by the railroad.
National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)	Air pollutant concentration limits established by the EPA for the protection of human health, structures, and the natural environment.
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)	The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321-4347; P.L. 91-190) is the basic national charter for the protection of the environment. It establishes policy, sets goals, and provides means for carrying out the policy. Its purpose is to provide for the establishment of a Council on Environmental Quality and to instruct Federal agencies on what they must do to comply with the procedures and achieve the goals of NEPA.
National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)	The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470-470 <i>et seq.</i> ; P.L. 89- 665), is the basic legislation of the Nation's historic preservation program that established the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Section 106 review process. Section 106 of the NHPA requires every Federal agency to “take into account” the effects of its undertakings on historic properties.
National Priorities List (NPL)	A subset of CERCLIS; EPA's list of the most serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites identified for possible long-term remedial action under the Superfund Program.
National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)	Administered by the National Park Services, the Nation's master inventory of known historic properties, including buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts that possess historic, architectural, engineering, archeological, or cultural significance at the Federal, state, and local levels.

National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)	An inventory of wetland types in the U.S. compiled by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
Native American	According to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990, as amended (25 U.S.C. 3001 <i>et seq.</i> ; P.L. 101-601), of or relating to a tribe, people, or culture that is indigenous to the U.S.
Native American lands	According to the regulation of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in 36 CFR 800.2 as modified by the scope of the Draft EIS, all lands under the jurisdiction or control of an Indian tribe, including all lands within the exterior boundaries of any American Indian reservation.
No-Action Alternative	The proposed action does not take place under this Alternative; also, the present setting for the pre-action conditions.
Noise	Any undesired sound or unwanted sound.
Noise contour	Line plotted on a map or drawing connecting points of equal sound levels.
Noise-sensitive receptor	Location where noise can interrupt on going activities and can result in community annoyance, especially in residential areas. The Board's environmental regulations include schools, libraries, hospitals, residences, retirement communities, and nursing homes as examples of noise-sensitive receptors.
Non-attainment area	An area that EPA has classified as not complying with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards promulgated under the Clean Air Act.
Operating Plan	A document that is provided as part of the proposed application detailing planned railroad by Applicant operations following the proposed action.
Operating practices	Safety and operating rules, practices, and procedures contained in operating rule book, timetable, special instructions or any other company-issued instructions. Includes the management decisions implementing those rules and instructions that govern the movement of trains and work on or around active tracks.

Operating rules	Written rules of a railroad governing the operation of trains and the conduct of employees responsible for train operations when working on or around active tracks.
Palustrine wetland	Non-tidal wetland dominated by trees, shrubs, or persistent emergent vegetation. Includes wetlands traditionally classified as marshes, swamps, or bogs.
Particulate matter (PM)	Airborne dust or aerosols.
Passby	The passing of a train past a specific reference point.
Point source	A distinct stationary source of air or water pollution such as a factory or sewer pipe.
Precursor	A term used in reference to air quality, meaning an initial ingredient contributing to a subsequent air quality pollutant.
Primary Application	The formal filing of documents with the Surface Transportation Board by applicants for railroad mergers, acquisitions, constructions, or abandonments. The Primary Application contains the Operating Plan and information describing related construction projects.
Prime farmland	According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, land having the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed forage, fiber, and oilseed crops.
Rail line segment	For the purposes of this Draft EIS, portions of rail lines that extend between two terminals or junction points.
Rail line switch	See <i>turnout</i> .
Rail route	Line of railroad track between two points on a rail system.
Rail yard	A location or facility with multiple tracks where rail operators switch and store rail cars.
Rare species	Species that have small world populations that presently are not in danger or vulnerable, but are at risk.
Receptor	See <i>noise-sensitive receptor</i> .

Resource Conservation and Recovery Information System (RCRIS)	Federal database containing information on facilities that generate, transport, store, treat, and/or dispose of hazardous waste.
Resources Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)	The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (42U.S.C. 6901 <i>et seq.</i> ; P.L. 94-580) is a Federal act governing the generating, storing, transporting, treating, and disposing of hazardous waste.
Right-of-way	The strip of land for which an entity (e.g., a railroad) has a property right to build, operate, and maintain a linear structure, such as a road, railroad, or pipeline.
Riparian	Relating to, living or located on, or having access to, the bank of a natural water course, sometimes also a lake or tidewater.
Riverine	All wetlands and deepwater habitats contained within a channel, either naturally or artificially created.
Route miles	Length of a railroad line, regardless of the number of tracks.
Scoping	Scoping is a process designed to examine a proposed project early in the EIS environmental analysis/review process, and is intended to identify the range of issues raised by the proposed project and to outline feasible Alternatives or mitigation measures to avoid potentially significant environmental effects. The scoping process inherently stresses early consultation with responsible agencies, trustee agencies, tribal governments, and any Federal agency whose approval or funding of the proposed project will be required for completion of the project. Scoping is considered an effective way to bring together and resolve the concerns of other agencies potentially affected by the project as well as other interested persons, such as the general public, who might not be in accord with the action on environmental grounds.
Section 106	Refers to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended through 1992 (16 U.S.C. 470). Section 106 requires a Federal agency head performing a Federal undertaking to take into account the undertaking's effects on historic properties.
Sensitive receptor	See <i>noise-sensitive receptor</i> .

Separated grade crossing	The site where a local street or highway crosses railroad tracks at a different level or elevation, either as an overpass or as an underpass.
Service	The official notification and delivery of Board decisions and notices (including environmental documents) by the Secretary of the Board to persons involved in a particular proceeding.
Siding	A track parallel to a main track that is connected to the main track at each end. A siding is used for the passing and/or storage of trains.
Sole Source Aquifer	USEPA defines a sole or principal source aquifer as one which supplies at least 50 percent of the drinking water consumed in the area overlying the aquifer. These areas can have no Alternative drinking water source(s) which could physically, legally, and economically supply all those who depend upon the aquifer for drinking water.
Sound	A physical disturbance in a medium (e.g., air) that is capable of being detected by the human ear.
Sound Exposure Level (SEL)	For a transient noise event such as a passing train equivalent to the maximum A-weighted sound level that would occur if all of the noise energy associated with the event were restricted to a time period of one second. The SEL accounts for both the magnitude and the duration of the noise event; noise analysts use SEL to calculate the day-night average noise level.
Switch	The portion of the track structure used to direct cars and locomotives from one track to another.
Switching	The activity of moving cars from one track to another in a yard or where tracks go into a railroad customer's facility.
Take or taking	Refers to the removal of property, an acquisition of right-of-way, or a loss and/or degradation of species' habitat.
Tank car	A type of freight car that shippers use to ship liquids and liquefied gases in bulk.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)	The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is the lead environmental agency for the state. Prior to September 2002, TCEQ was known as the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC).
Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC)	The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC), the lead environmental agency for the state, changed its name to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in September 2002.
Threatened species	A species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or part of its range, and is protected by state and/or Federal law.
Threshold for environmental analysis	A level of proposed change in railroad activities that determines the need for SEA's environmental review. SEA first applies the Board's thresholds for environmental analysis at 49 CFR Part 1105. The Board thresholds apply specifically to air quality and noise. For other issue areas, SEA developed appropriate thresholds to guide its environmental review.
Ton mile	The movement of one ton of cargo or equipment over a distance of one mile.
Toxic	Toxic refers to effects of, relating to, or caused by a poisonous substance.
Trackage rights	A track arrangement consisting of a switch and frog with connecting and operating parts, extending from the point of the switch to the frog, which enables engines and cars to pass from one track to another.
Track class	Designation between one and six by the Federal Railroad Administration to characterize the quality and condition of track. The track geometry and type of track structure govern the allowable speed over the track and the level of upkeep to maintain the track. For a Class 3 track the maximum allowable operating speed is 40 mph for freight trains and 60 mph for passenger trains. For Class 4 track the maximum allowable operating speed is 60 mph for freight trains and 80 mph for passenger trains.
Turnout	The portion of railroad track structure where a single track divides into two tracks.

Unit train	A train consisting of cars carrying a single commodity, e.g., a coal train.
Verified Statement	A party's sworn statement that provides information to the Board.
Water resources	An all inclusive term that refers to many types of permanent and seasonally wet/dry surface water features including springs, creeks, streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, wetlands, canals, harbors, bays, sloughs, mudflats, and sewage-treatment and industrial ponds.
Wayside	Adjacent to the railroad track, as in “wayside signals” or “wayside defect detectors.”
Wayside train noise	Train noise adjacent to the right-of-way that comes from sources other than the horn, such as engine noise, exhaust noise, and noise from steel train wheels rolling on steel rails.
Wetlands	According to 40 CFR Part 230.41, those “areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions,” generally including swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.